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THE STORY OF THE JEWS.*

Prof. Hosmer has written a very readable book, which does not belie its title; it is a story, not a history, although, as he admits, not adapted for immature minds. He has made no endeavor to unfold with scientific exactness the life and events of this most marvelous people, but only to throw in bold and picturesque relief some of the most striking features of their career and position in the world. He has done this well, with great fervor and impassioned word painting; and, if he appears to have been carried away with the tragic elements of Jewish history, this is his prerogative, for he is writing a story. One wishes, however, for more frequent breaks in his fervent language, and descents to a plainer and more simple narrative style. The volume gives evidence also of a short period of composition, of something wrought out to order, the fruit of a season's industrious compilation, rather than a labor of long love, or the toil of the patient investigation of a score of years. It is easy to see that Prof. Hosmer does not believe in the inspiration of the Bible, as that term is generally understood. As a source of history it is apparently esteemed but little more reliable than Josephus. We are told that "the biblical mention of Assyria, though abundant, was scarcely coherent or trustworthy." This is a surprising statement in view of the wonderful corroboration of the record of the Book by the records of the clay tablets. For interesting accounts of Jewish persecutions, for graphic delineations of remarkable Jewish characters, and for a true portraiture of the modern Jew, this work is well worthy of a place in our libraries; but it is not a permanent contribution to Jewish history, nor, perhaps, does it pretend to be,—it is a story. This book is attractive in appearance and has two maps, many illustrations, and an index. We regret that the tabernacle of *flat* roof again appears, embellishing the cover as well as adorning an inside page. What a poor water-shed for Syrian rains!

A REASONABLE FAITH.†

"To make the Faith of some more reasonable, and the Reason of others more inclined to faith," is the object of this little work. Its spirit cannot be better designated than by the name of our revered American poet, Whittier. He himself indeed has said of it: "I find myself in accord with it. It is *Quakerism* pure and undefiled." In these essays is the same broad, loving, catholic spirit seen in his poems; but the sentiments advanced, like his, will not be always found within the limits of a rigid orthodoxy. We give some keynotes under the leading topics discussed. Fundamental Religion: "a desire for righteousness or holiness." "An earnest persistent endeavor after the fulfillment of God's will in thought, word, and deed, made effectual by divine help,—nothing imputed nor merely 'Reckoned,'—but the real moral condition, is an essential characteristic of religion." God is Our Father: "infinitely good, loving, and true, long-suffering and merciful, yearning tenderly towards His children, and when inflicting pain, in-

* THE STORY OF THE JEWS. By James K. Hosmer, Professor in Washington University, Mo.; author of a "Short History of German Literature," "The Life of Samuel Adams," etc. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1886. Pp. 381. Size 8x5½ inches. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

† A REASONABLE FAITH. Short Essays for the Times. By three "Friends." Revised Edition. London: Macmillan & Co. Pp. 106. Size 5x7½ inches. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. In paper. Price 40 cents.

flicting it not for Retribution's sake, but for Restoration's sake." God Manifest in the Flesh: "we see in Christ as much of God as *can* be manifest in a human life." "*God manifest in the flesh* is, to us, the central truth of Christianity." The Atonement: "it is not the expression of God's anger against sinners, much less against his well beloved son in their stead." "The aim of this part of Christ's work was *restoration*, not *expiation*." The Bible: "not simply either a Revelation or *the* Revelation, but rather the Record of a *Progressive Revealing* of Spiritual Truth."

JOSHUA.*

This is a very instructive, very readable, and very conservative commentary. It is rich in explanation and, while far from being homiletical, it presents in the best sense homiletical material. The most noteworthy literature of the subjects in hand has been consulted and most apt quotations are again and again introduced. Dr. Maclear is evidently a lover of old English, for he delights in citing the version of Wyclif. Something of interest also is always given respecting what might be regarded very dull narrative. Geographical names are made to glow with history. The unexplainable is wisely let alone. No theories of how the sun stood still and the day was lengthened during the battle of Beth-horon are given, but the simple fact of the miraculous prolongation of daylight is accepted. We do not always agree with Dr. Maclear. His chapter in the introduction on Joshua as a type of Christ we do not regard of particular edification. But on the whole we feel justified in calling this the best commentary on the book of Joshua for the ordinary student of God's Word. It has two maps and a copious index.

JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE.†

This manual is designed for a text-book for Jewish schools, the original being widely thus used in Germany; but it will be very welcome and helpful to every one who cares to know of the activity of the Jewish mind. It is a narrative of facts: a little chronological encyclopedia of Jewish history and men of letters. Especially valuable is it in presenting that obscure portion of Jewish history, the post-Biblical, of which so little is generally known, and so few accounts of which are accessible to English readers. One is able to trace here the rise and fall of all their different centres of learning and influence in Asia, Africa and Europe. Mention is made of all their leading scholars and teachers. The place is here found of all the different Jewish writers, to whose works frequent mention is made by commentators on the Bible. A real want of Old Testament students is thus met by this little work.

* CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES. General Editor: J. J. S. Perowne, D. D., Dean of Peterborough. THE BOOK OF JOSHUA; with Notes, Maps and Introduction by the Rev. G. F. Maclear, D. D. Cambridge: *University Press*. 1883. Pp. 228. New York: *Macmillan & Co.* Price, 70 cents.

† MANUAL OF JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE, preceded by a brief Summary of Bible History by Dr. D. Cassel, translated by Mrs. Henry Lucas. London: *Macmillan and Co.* 1883. Size, 4x6 inches. Pp. 258. Chicago: *A. C. McClurg and Co.* Price, 75 cents.